



AAN POVERTY REDUCTION

Date/Time:
September 20, 2022 / 1:30pm – 3:30pm

Location: Zoom

Chairs: Allyson Dann, Margot Brunner

In Attendance:

Allyson Dann (Calgary Fetal Alcohol Network)	Kathy Chan (Workers' Resource Centre)
Amanda Lawlor (Winder inclusive communities Service)	Keri McEachern (Self Advocacy Federation)
Amy Lonsberry (Sinneave Foundation)	Laura Harrisson (Calgary Food Bank)
Brad Robertson (Community Advocate)	Margot Brunner (Voice of Albertans with Disabilities)
Colleen Huston (Disability Action Hall)	Meri Topchieva (Alberta Ability Network)
Darryl Janzen (Cerebral Palsy Alberta)	Mezaun Lakha-Evin (Alberta Ability Network)
Dawn Chrystian (Viking/Beaver FCSS)	Michelle Vetland (Calgary Food Bank)
Don Slater (Community Advocate)	Olgita Vumilia (Momentum)
Haley Weiss (Selections Career Support Services)	Sam Mason (Voice of Albertans with Disabilities)
Jennifer Smyth (Edmonton Community Legal Centre)	Shane Rempel (Southern Alberta Brain Injury Society)
	Tasha M (Independent Living Resource Centre Of Calgary)

Meeting Minutes

Land Acknowledgement
Welcome and Introductions

Topics of Discussion:

Recruitment Update

- We have 17 new members on this table which is the 2nd highest out of the 5 tables, the first one being Recreation.

Spotlight: Calgary Food Bank

Statistics

- Food bank users in Canada: 33% are children, 46.1 are single adult households, and 50.5% receive social assistance or disability. The Calgary Food Bank users are 37% children, 43% single adult households and 33% receive social assistance or disability.
- 25.9% of households that rent accommodations are food-insecure while 13.9% of owners with a mortgage are food insecure. 25% of Black homeowners are food insecure.
- 15.9% of households across the provinces have experienced food insecurity.

- Indigenous people are 5 times less likely to complete a high school diploma, 29% less employed, 3 times higher rates of food insecurity than white households, and 7 times as likely to live in unsuitable housing. This all results in a household being more likely to be food insecure, and thereby needing the food bank.
- In Alberta, 44.3% of households relying on social assistance are food insecure
- 30% of the Calgary Food Bank's users identify as disabled. Of those, 14% need employment, 13% need help to find and apply for benefits, 11% can't consistently pay rent, and 6% are looking for social support.

Mission and programs

- Their mission is to have a hungry-free community.
- All their programs are based on 3 pillars: feed, lead and connect.
- Feed is providing emergency food hampers and food in general. Lead is building awareness and engagement within the community and advocating for policy changes. Connect is strengthening the network to address the root causes of food insecurity.
- They have 8 programs which are: emergency food hampers, weekends and more, hampers for the homeless, welcome home, good link, food rescue/share, purchasing power, and food grants

Important to know

- Food hampers can be accessed every 11 days
- No annual cap on how many hampers a household can get.
- Food hampers can be requested by phone, online, or from partner organizations.
- Have 14 satellite locations.
- Food insecurity is on the rise.
- Food insecurity won't be addressed until the root causes are addressed.
- There is a link between food insecurity and disability.
- Adequate social policies can address food insecurity and its root causes.
- Please contact the following people if you have any questions: Laura Harrisson (Lharrisson@calgaryfoodbank.com) and Michelle Vetland (Mvetland@calgaryfoodbank.com)

Discussion

- In the midst of creating a delivery program.
- After renovations, they can break down hampers and remove unwanted items but currently, as the hampers do come pre-bagged and with minimal space, they cannot personalize each hamper as they distribute 500-600 a day.

Self-Advocacy Federation's film on Disability and food justice

- <https://youtu.be/yyCOMeQdiS0>

Cost-of-Living Survey

- We received 484 responses to the cost-of-living survey.
- 14.75% of the respondents identified as not having a disability or did not want to share. 85.25% of the respondents did identify as having a disability, indicating that the survey is a good representative of the disability community.



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- 53.96% of the respondents identified that they could afford rent. Most of the respondents identified that they can only pay rent and bare necessities, while others said they wouldn't be able to pay rent if they didn't live with family or have a second job.
- We are looking for some feedback on how to reach the people that do not have access to the internet as they are not represented in this survey.
- Planning to present a campaign leading up to October 17th which is the day to eliminate poverty. As we do not meet before then, we will be creating a sub-committee to plan the campaign.
- Can reach people experiencing homelessness by going through agencies such as The Source.
- Disability without Poverty has created presentations and materials for food insecurity.

Cost of Survey Link

- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/aancostofliving>

Action Items:

- Create a subcommittee with the interested members for October 17th. (Eradication of Poverty Day) to create some messaging to go out. Please reach out to Allyson Dann (adann@mycfan.ca) or Margot Brunner (adann@mycfan.ca) if interested.
- Reach out to agencies that didn't receive the survey to ensure everyone is equally represented.

Wrap-Up/Adjournment

Next meeting:

Date: October 18th, 2022

Time: 1:30pm – 3:30pm

Location: Zoom